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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Identical letters dated 26 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Armed terrorist groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army and Army of Islam are waging a systematic and relentless campaign of terrorism against the innocent civilians of the Syrian Arab Republic. In continuation of that campaign, terrorist groups affiliated with Al-Qaida carried out attacked dozens of villages, including Tall Harmaz, Tall Shamiram, Tall Rumman, Tall Nusra, Aghaybish, Tuma Yalda, Hawuz, Tall Kawran and Tall Tamar in the countryside of Hasakah governorate, killing many innocent civilians. They also abducted 200 civilians, among whom were a number women and children, displaced more than 690 families, attacked places of worship and burned the historic church of Tall Harmaz, one of the oldest churches in Syria and the world.

Those crimes that were committed against Syrian civilians are just yet another round in the ugly and ongoing cycle of crime that the entire Syrian people, without exception, have been enduring. They are also an attempt to sow disunion, hatred and enmity Syrian society, which has been known from time immemorial for its deeply rooted tradition of harmony, love, brotherhood and tolerance, a tradition that has bound its various components. Starting from Syria, and its one people, the alphabet spread throughout the world. Religions have also spread from Syria to the four corners of the world, heralding the word of Christ, the messenger of love, and of Muhammad (peace be upon him), the messenger of mercy and the seal of the prophets. Christianity and Islam spread out from Syria proclaiming peace, mercy and love to the entire world.

The above-mentioned crimes are a continuation of the atrocities committed by armed terrorist groups, which have demolished religious sites, houses of worship, the tombs of holy figures, companions of the prophet Muhammad and saints, as well as historical and cultural sites throughout Syria, with the aim of inflicting the greatest damage possible to the human heritage and civilization of Syria and to its people's history and cultural identity.

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The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that such acts of terrorism would not have occurred were it not for the direct support that those terrorist organizations, which espouse an extremist and exclusionary ideology, continue to receive from States that are known to all. Syria believes that is now incumbent upon the international community and the States that stand against terrorism, extremism and fanaticism to compel those States that have been supporting the campaign of blind terrorism being waged against Syria and its people over the past four years to cease their support, whether in the form of funding, arms, equipment, training or information. They must also put pressure on the former group of States, which are known to all and have been the subject of previous letters from us, to stop the flow of foreign terrorists into Syria. The international community is now called upon to affirm its commitment to combat terrorism and extremist terrorist groups by cooperating and coordinating fully in that regard with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which stands as a bulwark against the spread of international terrorism, by implementing in good faith the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), which must not remain merely words on paper.

In that connection, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that it is fully ready to cooperate, whether bilaterally or at the international level, with sincere and honest actors in order to counter terrorism and eradicate it, so as to spare humanity the evils of blind terrorism and the horrors of extremism, which threatens to wipe out human values and civilization.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative